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CYBER MONDAY IS HERE TO RID YOU OF EVEN MORE MONEY. PAGES 16-18

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Dress up. The national Ugly Sweater Run is coming to Fairmount Park this Saturday morning. **Massive.** The run's director said the inaugural Philadelphia race is already set to be one of the biggest in the United States. PAGE 02

DON'T SWEAT(ER) IT

Actor Paul Walker dead at age 40

PAGE 10

Education: Disconnect and tune in

PAGE 20

Eagles keep pace with Cowboys

PAGES 25-26

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1 NEWS

Don we now our ugly sweaters and run for fun

Festive. The Ugly Sweater Run is coming to Philadelphia this Saturday.

On Saturday, Philadelphians will bring awareness to a very serious holiday issue: ugly sweaters.

For the first time in the City of Brotherly Love, runners and walkers can don their best (or is it worst?) holiday sweaters for Human Movement Management's Ugly Sweater Run, a 5K course around Fairmount Park.

"It's pretty crazy," said Leah Smith, HMM's series director for the run. "People make their own sweaters and dress up their dogs, their kids."

The event production company puts on runs all around the country like the Zombie Run, Dirty Girl and the Turkey Trot. It's coming to Philadelphia this week for the first time. HMM was in town for the Color Run and saw the impact it had on the city and the amount of participants.

If you go

Ugly Sweater Run

Dec. 7, 8 a.m.
Fairmount Park
$44, www.theuglysweaterrun.com

"We got a lot of response," Smith said after the group polled people on where to have a sweater run. "It's definitely going to be one of the biggest races of 2013."

But it's not just all fun and ugly sweaters. Runners are encouraged to bring toys for a donation. The giving aspect of the run attracted South Jersey's Ray Budden. He wanted to do a run but still give back this holiday season. The hardest thing so far has been finding a fitting sweater.

"Searching for a sweater has been a real challenge," he said. "I have the hat, the knee-high socks, interesting shorts but have not found the perfect sweater yet."

But Budden does know one part of his getup that he'll wear. "I plan on attaching mistletoe to my Christmas jester hat and meeting lots of new people."

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
christina.paciolla@metro.us

Blip it

Today's edition of Metro contains "Blippable" ads and editorial content to make your paper interactive. Here's how it works: Download the free Blippar app on your device, open the app and hold it over "blippable" content in Metro to see videos, get coupons, shop online or unlock myriad other interactive content experiences.

Local tweet

"Nothing's worse than a fake Christmas tree"

What about fake holiday spirit, @B_TREWtoyoself?

RiverRink at Penn's Landing opens for the season

Hundreds of people enjoy a skate as the BlueCross RiverRink at Penn's Landing opened for the season on Saturday. The rink features a holiday light show and is open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. most days through Jan. 5. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Police shooting

Armed robber in critical condition

A police officer shot an armed robber during a scuffle Saturday in Northeast Philadelphia, police said.

According to police, the officer intercepted a robbery in progress, in which the suspect ripped off two men and ran, on Ditman Street around 11 p.m.

As police yelled for him to stop, the man whipped out a shotgun, and as he pointed it at police, an officer fired and hit the suspect five times, police said.

As of Sunday, the robber is in critical condition at Frankford Torresdale Hospital. METRO

Shop 'til you pay

PPA: Free parking on Saturdays

On Saturdays from now until the new year, holiday shoppers can park for free on Center City streets from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Philadelphia Parking Authority announced.

Parking garages will also offer a set $8 parking rate on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at garages in Old City, Independence Mall, The Gallery, JFK Plaza, Eighth and Filbert and 10th and Ludlow.

All other parking violations will be enforced.

The city hopes the relaxed rules will bring more shoppers downtown for the Christmas season, the parking authority said. METRO

Parking meter / FILE PHOTO

Brutal. Sibling allegedly beat brother to death, hides corpse

A man's dead body was found on Saturday wrapped in bed linens and packing material in the basement of a Northeast Philadelphia home, and police suspect a sibling is to blame, police said.

According to police, the man was beaten to death by his brother and then wrapped in a bed sheet and packing materials and stashed in the basement of a home on the 2100 block of Princeton Avenue in Castor.

The brother called police to report what he had done, officials said. METRO

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Philadelphians protest brutality in the Ukraine

Bloody politics. Police attacked unarmed pro-EU protesters in Kiev on Saturday, spurring protests in Philadelphia.

Waving Ukrainian flags and wearing the scarves of the Kiev Dynamo soccer team, Ukrainians assembled Sunday in Philadelphia's Independence Square to protest a crackdown on protesters in their native land.

"I'm terrified and scared," said Yulia Kurka, whose family lives in Ukraine. "I can't sleep."

Kurka said that due to "informational isolation," Americans learned of the crackdown before many Ukrainians did.

Protesters gathered in Kiev's Maidan Square after Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich suspended plans to sign an agreement integrating his nation into the European Union, reportedly due to pressure from Russia's government.

Early Saturday morning, police entered the square and without warning began attacking protesters with batons, stun guns and tear gas, according to Kurka and media reports.

"Russia would not survive without Ukraine, that's why they don't to lose Ukraine," Oksana Strockyj, 51, said.

The U.S. State Department has condemned Ukraine's use of violence.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Voices

"The people, they want to be part of this European Union. The government doesn't want to listen to the people."
Tom Nazar, protester

Holiday tradition at Reading Terminal

William Bozzelli, 6, and his father Larry watch a train at the Reading Terminal Market's Holiday Railroad on Sunday. It features 12 working train lines and miniature scenery, including Center City Philadelphia. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Hot rod

Woman steals Cadillac with kids inside

A 22-year-old woman stole a Cadillac Escalade in Kensington — while it was occupied by a 4-year-old girl and an infant, police said.

The woman, who was later caught, hopped into the SUV around 11 a.m. Saturday and drove off with the 10-month-old baby and young girl inside.

Police have not yet determined whether the woman knew the children or even knew they were inside the vehicle when she stole it. The children were not harmed. METRO

Shutdown

Camden Convent to close

Camden's Monastery of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary will today announce plans to close its doors after 100 years, The Courier-Post reported. METRO

Ask SEPTA

JOE CASEY

SEPTA GENERAL MANAGER

SEPTA GM ANSWERS YOUR QUERIES

Is it possible to have more transit police going through the El? JOY SOTO

A uniformed presence provides a temporary deterrent. The transit police have been focusing on addressing behavior that improves the quality of your ride. During the first nine months of 2013, they increased the number of citations issued for panhandling, smoking, harassment and similar types of crimes by 274 percent. Soon, passengers will be able to notify the transit police via texting of problems occurring on the system in a more timely fashion so that the police can intercept the offenders.

Quoted

Soon, passengers will be able to notify the transit police via texting of problems occurring on the system.

Why doesn't SEPTA re-open the underground tunnel between 30th Street Station and the Market-Frankford subway station next to 30th Street? LINDA WALTERS-PAGE

The tunnel was closed about 10 years ago due to customer safety concerns. Even with surveillance cameras, the winding length of the tunnel with its blind corners and its depth, three levels down, would make it difficult to ensure the security of those walking. In addition to these safety and security issues, capital costs in the range of $5 to $7 million would have to be invested to refinish walls and ceilings, redo stairs, signage and establish a new head-end within the Amtrak station. We would also be required to install elevators to ensure the tunnel was ADA compliant. It is, therefore, unlikely that the tunnel will ever be re-opened.

The QuietRide car is a fantastic idea. Unfortunately, every day, non-regular passengers board the first car with no clue that it is the QuietRide car. Many conductors do not make the announcement or fail to enforce the quiet car rules. I believe there should be a large, obvious sign over the OUTSIDE entrance of the QuietRide car so passengers know. What do you think? KEITH R. PHILADELPHIA

While most riders recognize and adhere to our QuietRide car policies, I agree that there are the occasional riders who either knowingly or unknowingly violate those policies. In order to address that, all SEPTA conductors are instructed to make clear and frequent announcements explaining the policy and identifying which car is the designated QuietRide car on that particular train. In addition, as you have pointed out, there is signage on all cars, explaining the policy and how it works. Unfortunately, we cannot simply designate a particular car as a permanent QuietRide car, because there is no guarantee that the car will end up being the first car in a train. With respect to installing a sign on the outside of the cars, our policy is that, with the exception of train destination signs, we do not place temporary signage on the outside of our cars. This is done in order to retain the outside shells clear of all possible obstructions as they go through their cleaning cycles.

Send your questions about SEPTA services and other issues about the transit agency to christina.paciolla@metro.us. They will be forwarded to Joe Casey, who will answer them in a special monthly column here.

Tony's Metro Magic toy drive

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Join Metro in giving to a local child in need this holiday season. Here's how:

1 Look for the Tony's Metro Magic logo on our website, www.metro.us.

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3 Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested for kids, with more being added daily. Simply select the toys you want and purchase them. That's it! Selecting only the toys on our Wish List ensures that all the gifts will be shipped to our offices. If you donate, email Metro at charity@metro.us, letting us know what you gave, and we'll print a "thank you" in the paper. METRO

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Rail accident. New York train derailment kills four, injures 63

A suburban New York train derailed on Sunday, killing four people and injuring 63, including 11 critically, when cars of a Metro-North train ran off the tracks on a sharp curve, officials said.

The crash happened at 7:20 a.m. about 100 yards north of Metro-North's Spuyten Duyvil station in the city's Bronx borough, said Metro-North spokesman Aaron Donovan.

A Fire Department spokesman confirmed the number of dead and said 11 people were in critical condition, six were in serious condition with non-life threatening injuries and another 46 suffered minor injuries.

The train, headed south toward Manhattan's Grand Central Terminal, was about half full at the time of the crash with about 150 passengers and was not scheduled to stop at the Spuyten Duyvil station, said the state's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, parent company of Metro-North. **REUTERS**

A Metro-North passenger train derailed en route to New York City near the Spuyten Duyvil station on Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

Black Friday online spending reaches a record $1.2 billion

Retail. About 97 million people planned to shop online or in stores on Black Friday.

People avoided the long lines of holiday shopping by logging on and shopping at home. / GETTY IMAGES

Online spending on Black Friday increased 15 percent to a record $1.2 billion as more consumers opted to shop from their couches rather than battle long lines at stores.

Total e-commerce sales reached $20.6 billion in the first 29 days of this holiday season, according to ComScore Inc. That's about a 3.1 percent increase from Nov. 1 to Black Friday last year, the research firm's data showed, noting that 2013 numbers include a few more shopping days because Thanksgiving fell on a later date this year.

Consumers are spending more time browsing and buying from smartphones and tablets, on top of the hours they already devote to shopping via the Web on laptop and desktop computers. That's translating into faster growth in online sales.

"While Black Friday — and now Thanksgiving Day — is the traditional kickoff to the brick-and-mortar holiday shopping season, both days continue to grow in importance on the online channel," ComScore Chairman Gian Fulgoni said in a statement. **BLOOMBERG**

Quoted

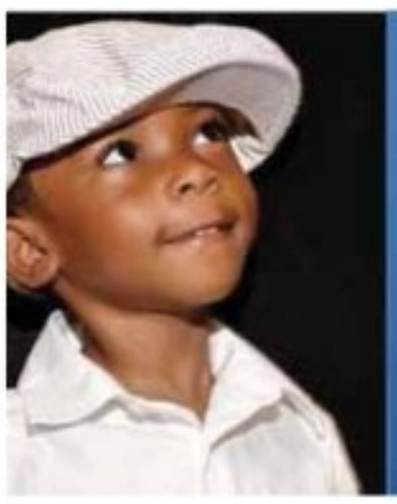
"Many consumers prefer to avoid the crowds and lines typically associated with Black Friday by shopping from the comfort of their own homes, and we saw a record 66 million Americans do that this year."

Gian Fulgoni
ComScore chairman

Turkey day

$766M

Thanksgiving Day online purchases climbed 21 percent to $766 million, ComScore reported.



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Unforgotten fighter of Korean War. US veteran a POW at 85

Merrill Edward Newman, an 85-year-old Korean War veteran, who lives in a retirement community in California, has become one of the last prisoners of that war. He returned to North Korea last month as an American tourist and was snatched by authorities from his plane moments before it was due to depart for Beijing.

When he returned to the isolated state, he was taking a risk, former guerrillas who knew Newman said. The North Korean regime has nourished memories of the 1950-53 Korean War as the inspiration for the country's identity and acts as if the conflict is still happening.

Technically, the war did not end. No peace treaty was signed between the United States, South Korea and North Korea. REUTERS

Vertical dive

Women skydivers break head-first record

Sixty-three women from around the world linked hands as they plunged head first toward the Arizona desert on Saturday, shattering the female vertical formation skydiving record, the U.S. Parachute Association said.

The skydivers leaped from three aircraft at 18,000 feet near Eloy, about 65 miles southeast of Phoenix. REUTERS

Obama administration says it achieved goal of fixing health care site

HealthCare.gov will face increasing pressure from consumers ahead of the Dec. 23 deadline to enroll for benefits. / HEALTHCARE.GOV

More work. Officials warned the site, HealthCare.gov, needs more fixes.

Two months after the disastrous launch of a website that is a key component of President Barack Obama's health care law, administration officials said on Sunday they had met their goal of getting the HealthCare.gov site running smoothly but warned that it needs more fixes.

Obama adviser Jeffrey Zients said a five-week emergency "tech surge" had doubled the capacity of the online health insurance portal that is crucial to helping millions of people shop for insurance plans, while making it more responsive and less prone to errors.

The administration said the effort's key improvement was to increase HealthCare.gov's capacity to 50,000 simultaneous users, which would allow the site to handle a minimum of 800,000 users per day. REUTERS

Volume concerns

Administration officials remain concerned about high volumes this month, with the potential for large numbers of people entering the site to apply for insurance coverage beginning Jan. 1.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY MOVING TO WORK ANNUAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is a participant in the Moving To Work Demonstration Program (MTW). PHA is soliciting public comments on its Moving to Work Annual Plan (Annual Plan) for PHA Fiscal Year 2015. The Annual Plan describes PHA's MTW proposed policy initiatives & activities for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Copies of the draft Annual Plan are available for public review on PHA's website at www.pha.phila.gov under the "Latest News" section or may be picked up at the following locations:

PHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program Office
2850 Germantown Ave 1st & 2nd Floor

Scattered Sites Management Offices:
3417 Spring Garden St.
3218 Susquehanna Ave
1821 Vineyard Street
400 W. Huntingdon St.
3226 McMichael St.

Public Housing Management Offices:
Bartram - 5404 Gibson Drive
Raymond Rosen – 2110 N. 23rd St.
Wilson Park - 2500 Jackson St.
Blumberg - 2311 W. Jefferson St.

PHA residents, Housing Choice Voucher participants & the general public may provide oral comments on the draft Annual Plan by attending the public hearing described below and/or by submitting written comments during the comment period. A public hearing will be conducted at the following time & location:

Dec. 19, 2013, 10am until noon at the John F. Street Community Ctr. 1100 Poplar St.

Only comments pertaining to the draft MTW Annual Plan are being solicited. PHA may modify the draft Annual Plan based on comments received. The comment period begins November 29, 2013 at 12 noon & ends on December 30, 2013 at 12 noon. All comments must be received by the end of the comment period. Please send written comments to:

PHA, Policy, Research, and Enterprise Planning Office
Attention: MTW Comments, 1606 Swain St., Philadelphia, PA 19130

The public hearing is at an accessible location. If you require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 215-684-4000. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

There was a huge outpouring on Twitter over the weekend regarding the death of Paul Walker. Here, Bret Easton Ellis, Dwayne Johnson and Vin Diesel share their condolences and memories.

@BretEastonEllis: Paul Walker was probably the most beautiful American movie actor of the past two decades.

@TheRock: All my strength, love & faith to the Walker family during this heart-breaking time. We find our strength.. in his light. Love you brother.

@OffVinDiesel: Brother I will miss you very much. I am absolutely speechless. Heaven has gained a new Angel. RIP.

New details emerge about Paul Walker's death

Actor Paul Walker, best known for his work in the "Fast and Furious" franchise, died in a car accident Saturday afternoon in Los Angeles, his rep confirms. He was 40 years old. "It is with a truly heavy heart that we must confirm that Paul Walker passed away today in a tragic car accident while attending a charity event for his organization Reach Out Worldwide," a statement on his Facebook page reads. "He was a passenger in a friend's car, in which both lost their lives."

That friend was also his business partner, Roger Rodas, who was driving a red Porsche. Reports say the car was traveling at high speeds when it hit a tree and then slammed into a street-light. As his rep stated, Walker and Rodas were at an event for Reach Out Worldwide to raise aid for victims of Typhoon Haiyan at Rodas' auto shop, Always Evolving, in Valencia, Calif. According to Radar Online, the crash happened so close to the fundraiser that attendees could hear it. Tragically, one of the witnesses who rushed to the scene was reportedly Rodas' 8-year-old son. "I ran over afterwards, I was trying to find Roger's son," eyewitness Jim Torp told the New York Daily News. "I found out his son had jumped the fence and gone over, he was trying to get his dad out. Paul Walker's best friend was trying to get Paul out of the car while it was still on fire. … He was trying to save his friend. … There was nothing he could do."

Walker is survived by his 15-year-old daughter, Meadow.

1

To see a list of Walker's best-known films, as well as a photo retrospective, Blip this photo. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

See more at www.metro.us

Osbourne admits to vagina surgery

Sharon Osbourne, who freely admits that she's had "a lot" of plastic surgery, went TMI overboard during a recent appearance on Graham Norton's talk show.

When quizzed about her multiple surgeries, she talked freely about her most painful surgical experience.

"Having my vagina tightened," she said. "It was just excruciating." Asked if it was worth it, she laughed: "My husband thinks so. It's back the way God wanted it to be."

And my God didn't want for me to know that about Sharon Osbourne's hoo-ha. Thanks a lot, Internet.

2

BAUER-GRIFFIN/GC IMAGES

Affleck: A true gentleman or just paparazzi bait?

We're sure the only reason Ben Affleck opened the car door for his wife Jennifer Garner on Friday in Los Angeles is because he's a true gentleman and not because the paps were watching. Right? Right?

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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Katniss beats Disney

Jennifer Lawrence led another commanding weekend for "Catching Fire." / MURRAY CLOSE

Box office.
"Catching Fire" still reigns, heating up the holiday season.

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" continued to light up the box office through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, collecting a record $110.2 million over five days to surpass a hefty opening for Disney's new animated film "Frozen," and bringing its 10-day total to nearly $300 million.

Moviegoers flooded theaters in record-setting numbers, dropping $294 million at box offices, beating the $290 million spent a year ago over the five-day period.

"Catching Fire" and "Frozen" both beat the Thanksgiving box office record of $82.4 million set by "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in 2001.

"Frozen," which critics lavishly praised, recorded ticket sales of $93 million at U.S. and Canadian theaters for the five-day holiday period, according to studio estimates compiled by Reuters. "This was much more than we ever could have thought," says Dave Hollis, executive vice president of distribution for Walt Disney Studios, adding it was the biggest-ever opening for one of its animated releases.

Disney's action film "Thor: The Dark World," based on the character from its Marvel comic book unit, was third with $15.5 million in ticket sales, according to data compiled by Rentrak.

Rounding out the top five were strong-performing "The Best Man Holiday," starring Taye Diggs and Terrence Howard, with $11.1 million, and "Homefront," which collected $9.8 million in its debut weekend. **REUTERS**

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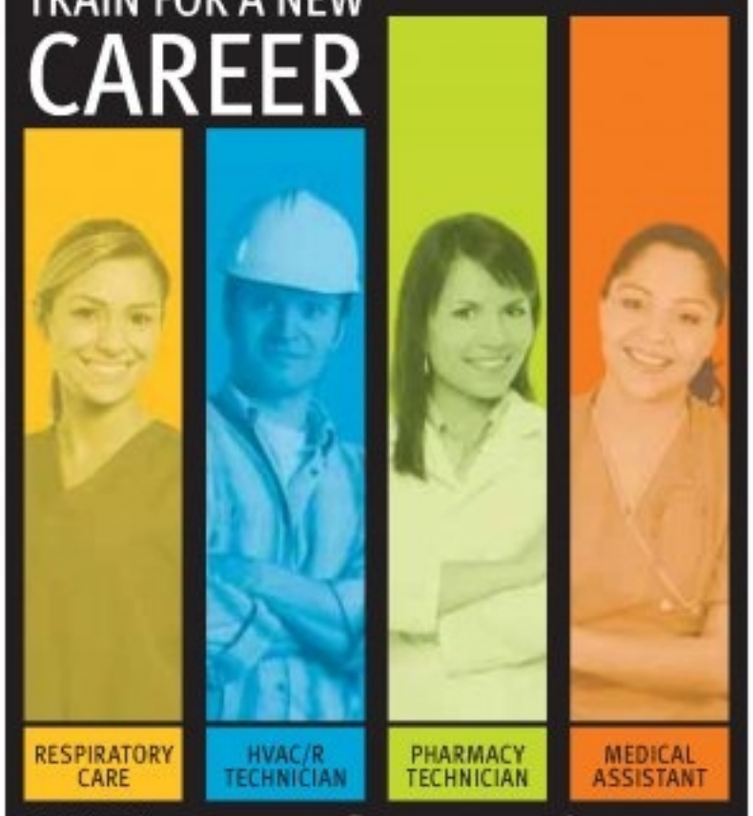

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So goes the pitch-black 1970 Italian satire "Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion," which targeted the police — and the political climate in Europe —

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'The Hangover Trilogy'

It only needed one entry, but while the third installment was a failure, it's not entirely without interest.

'Nashville'

It's not Robert Altman's best film, but this 1975 country music panorama is his most "Altman-esque," with 24 main characters.

'The Smurfs 2'

Not many saw this cynically-made sequel, so hopefully this is the last you'll ever read about it.

with such severity that its makers were convinced it would get them busted. (Indeed, the film was so hot-button that a terrorist bombing that occurs in the film happened, almost to the letter, in real life after the sequence was already filmed.) Instead, the film was a hit and won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

Like many Italian films of the era, it's both stylish and political. Director Elio Petri sought to make what he called "polpop": films that sneaked hard-line political content into poppy, mainstream forms. "Investigation," which seeks to warn of Italy's backsliding into fascism, is more art film than pop, madly capturing an anti-hero attempting to escape from a system he can't help perpetuating. The catchy score by Ennio Morricone is at once jaunty and sinister, just like the film itself.

Claws out

'The Wolverine: Unleashed Extended Version'

The extended version of the second Wolverine spinoff runs nearly 2½ hours. Hopefully the added footage deals more with the parts where Hugh Jackman's brooding mutant hangs out in the woods, racking up piles of bourbon bottles while beating up hunters in redneck bars.

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Source: Scarborough 2013-2Q

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'Nerds' take to the stage

Gates and Jobs. It's cool to be a nerd, especially if you're also a billionaire.

The geeks have inherited the Earth. And there's a musical about them.

In Philadelphia Theatre Company's "Nerds," the focus is on two nerds, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs, who changed the world.

"There is a rivalry between these two outcasts, and there's a different color to the two of them," says "Nerds" director Casey Hushion. "Gates is the nerdiest of the nerds, and Jobs the coolest of the nerds. Watching those two guys transform from their earliest years into celebrity icons ... and tracking the rivalry over the course of those years is such great territory for a musical."

Gates is, of course, the co-founder of Microsoft and a pioneer of the personal computer. Jobs, who died in 2011, co-founded Apple.

"The core of the show is about that nerd or that eccentric part in all of us we kind of let shine and what it does and how it can transform lives," Hushion says. "It really celebrates the eccentricity and individuality of people. That's why I think nerd-dom has become kind of popular."

"Nerds" the play was popular during its first run in Philly, in 2007, winning Barrymore awards for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Original Music. Now, it's been revamped from a MySpace time to a Facebook world.

"It's more polished, less sketchy, with a more fully realized book," says Philadelphia Theatre Company's producing executive director Sara Garonzik.

The show is geek-approved, says Hushion, who is also artistic director of the North Carolina Theatre, where this version of "Nerds" was previously staged. "I'm a 500-percent theater nerd from a very early age, and I have many, many pictures to prove it," quips Hushion, whose credits on Broadway include "Elf: The Musical" and "In the Heights." "As a young kid who didn't fit in, the theater was the place I found where I could let all the eccentricities out."

Stanley Bahorek is Bill Gates and Rob Morrison is Paul Allen in "Nerds." / NORTH CAROLINA THEATRE, CURTIS BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Cyber Monday tips

Shopping secrets.
Score the best deals with these useful techniques.

Armed with your coffee and credit card, you may feel ready for Cyber Monday — but with millions of other shoppers joining in, the online shopping competition is fierce. Mattias Larsson, the CEO and founder of DefinitiveDeals.com, has been studying online shopping habits for the past eight years, particularly Cyber Monday habits.

Keep your eye on the prize

"It's so easy to get distracted on Cyber Monday by deals for items you don't really want," Larsson says. To avoid buyer's remorse, make a list of the items you want to buy and stick to it. "Retailers will advertise big discounts to get you to click on their site, but those items sell out fast and then you're clicking around on the site instead of buying the items you want."

Don't go for the lowest price

According to Larsson, many sites will offer cheap electronics, but the quality will be as low as the price and you'll end up disappointed. "Look for discounts that aren't the door-buster price, but still a good deal," he says.

Wait on clothes and toys

"Prices for these items actually drop more closer to Christmas than they do on Cyber Monday," Larsson says. The one exception: new, buzzworthy toys. "If there's something really big this season, get it early. But for toys that are the same year after year, you're better off waiting until Christmas."

Founded in 2005, DefinitiveDeals.com showcases the best deals the Web has to offer. Deals are listed in order of strength.

EMILY LAURENCE
emily.laurence@metro.us

Skip it

Forget about PlayStation4

Our expert says finding a PlayStation4 or Xbox One below the sticker price isn't going to happen. But you will score sweet deals on PS3s and Xbox360s. "You will find great bundles of older consoles that come with the system and games," says Larsson.

Items in high demand are sure to run out quickly, so log on early.
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Outside the box

Consider these random picks when navigating Cyber Monday.

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While you're stocking up on hot-ticket items this Cyber Monday, you might also want to book a plane ticket, as hotels everywhere slash rates today. Check out these deals:

We're not sure which is bluer at the Gansevoort Turks + Caicos — the pool or the sky? / NAGDA BIERNAT

Gansevoort Turks + Caicos

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www.gansevoortturksandcaicos.com

Hotel Madeline, Telluride, Colorado

The deal: Take 50 percent off the Ski and Spa package
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The fine print: Valid for stays through Dec. 18; no blackout dates!
www.hotelmadelinetelluride.com

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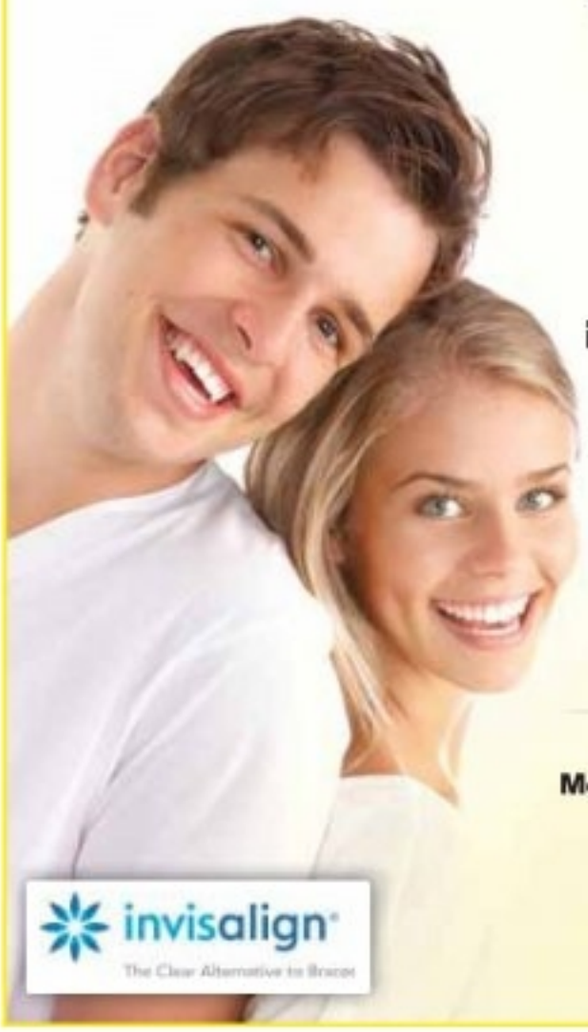

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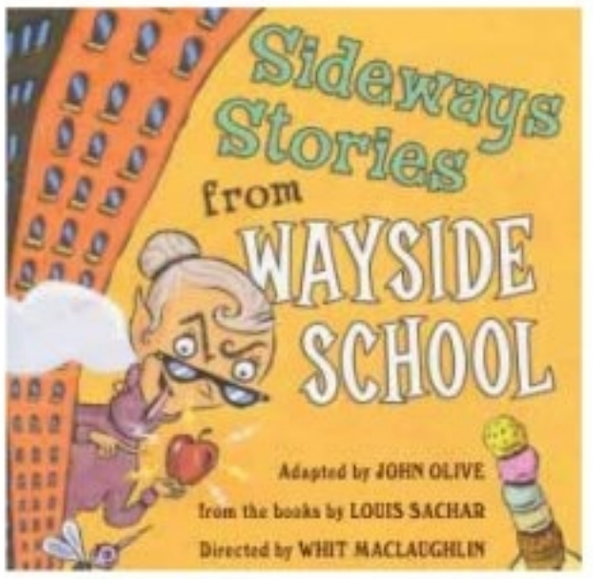
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‘PERSONAL GROWTH IS NOT A RACE’

Whenever I meet up with old friends this time of year, I start doubting myself. I’m single and all my friends my age (30) are married with kids. How can I cope with feeling so different?

Many years ago, I accidentally killed a lily plant because I mistakenly assumed that if I stuck it in a sunny spot and watered it regularly, it would flourish like my philodendron. What I didn’t realize was that my lily couldn’t handle direct sunlight.

People are a lot like plants. Although we all need the same basic ingredients to survive, the conditions required for flourishing vary from person to person. Many factors, including parenting, genetics, social class, culture and luck affect the timing and rhythms at which our lives unfold.

No Insurance Necessary

KIM SCHNEIDERMAN, MSW, LCSW
NOVEL-PERSPECTIVE.COM

Kim Schneiderman’s book “Step Out of Your Story: Writing Exercises to Reframe and Transform Your Life,” is due to be published in the spring.

Many of my clients feel the same way that you do about feeling different. Sadly, I detect a hint of shame attached to such feelings. It’s as if there is some universal cultural standard of normal to which people think they are falling short. Sure, there are specific lifestyle trends associated with different times in our lives. Developmental psychologist Erik Erikson posed that each stage of our lives presents a specific challenge that, if mastered, builds a person’s sense of competence, leading him or her to a new chapter with different challenges. For example, young adulthood is about establishing intimacy with others versus becoming isolated.

But there are many avenues for creating intimacy. Being in relationships and starting families is just one of them. My suggestions to you are as follows:

Advice

1 Figuratively speaking, think about what kind of plant you are. Ask yourself what are the conditions — the kind of environment, the types of friends, the forms of nourishment — that will help you blossom.

There’s no timetable for coming into your own.
EYECANDY IMAGES RF

2 Identify your purpose. Ask yourself what contribution you can make to the world when you’re being yourself. The world wouldn’t operate well if everyone did the same thing.

3 Celebrate the qualities that make you unique. Imagine how you would see yourself differently if you regarded these qualities as strengths.

4 Identify obstacles to creating more intimacy in your life. You might do this with trusted friends or a psychotherapist.

5 Find role models — people you admire because of their uniqueness. They are in no short supply.

PLUS

More advice

Find your flower

Remember, there is no one “correct” way to blossom; marriage and children are not the only “fruit” of one’s labors or measure of a person’s value as a human being. Each flower has its own unique beauty and scent. Find yours and share it with the world.

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Unplugging to find intimacy

Phone-free. One professor asks students to put down their phones and reach out.

Pick a campus, any campus. As you stroll around, chances are you'll notice fewer students without a tech device than with them: all the more reason for Andrew Reiner, an English professor at Towson University, to teach his course, "The Search for Intimacy in the Age of Facebook."

"As I started teaching at the college level, I was getting a vibe there was a lot of disconnect. Whether it was walking to dining halls, libraries or when I'd walk into class — there were endless amounts of phone activity and Facebooking."

Reiner's overall purpose was to help students find authenticity and springboard into relationships with others. He wants his students to disengage online to re-engage offline.

For instance, Reiner has given students a tech-free assignment based on an essay from a book called "The Sabbath." Reiner realizes that he can't deny students their technology, but he encourages them to become independent from it, taking a four-hour break from social media as part of the class.

"It's really not that long, but to them it was a lifetime," he explains. "They had to do something by themselves that did not involve homework or being plugged in and write a guided reflection. Reflections that came back spoke to a kind of disconnect from themselves."

In another recent assignment, students sat alone in a crowded lunchroom. They weren't allowed to use smartphones, laptops, do schoolwork, use social media or text. "The need to be in touch breeds hyper-conformity. You're like a pariah if you're not on Facebook for a day."

Describing it as a "very deliberate and conscious way" to defy technology, Reiner's goal is to teach students to be in control of technology and not the other way around.

"All it really requires is the willingness to impose some boundaries on the extent to which I get back to people and the speed at which I get back to [them]," he says.

Taking a break from technology can be a tough lesson for students to learn. / GETTY IMAGES, PIXLAND

Quoted

"This is about reconnecting with your deeper, personal authenticity and discovering that confrontation can be civil and productive without the stress of cruelty and drama."

Andrew Reiner, professor at Towson University

Reiner fears that not setting boundaries for technology may have dire implications for society. "I'm scared for our culture, for the world that my 2-year-old is entering into," he says. In order to set boundaries and reconnect with life offline — in addition to regular four-hour "Sabbaths" — Reiner recommends writing monthly letters to tell someone something you have wanted to share for "a few days, months or even years."

And make it meaningful, he recommends: "Tell them something that deeply matters to you, whether it's resentment, hurt or gratitude. … Frame the truth in an honest, respectful tone. [It's] about reconnecting with a deeper, personal authenticity and discovering that confrontation can be civil and productive without the stress."

VICKI SALEMI
letters@metro.us

Techno-addicts

Students weigh in

Leonard Randall Chisolm, sophomore, Harcum College: "Technology is a great way to stay in touch. I think some people abuse it, and at times I have abused it, but there are some times you have to control yourself and say, 'Get me back to the real world.'"

Christina Madsen, senior, Barnard College: "If I had to go eat lunch by myself without a phone, I would definitely feel disconnected and judged. I catch myself constantly refreshing my Facebook News Feed or texting people for no reason just so I feel less alone. When I notice myself doing this, I'll sometimes try to put down my phone and just eat by myself, but it never lasts very long."

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Getting to know your professor during office hours can help you get a recommendation letter when you need it. / GETTY IMAGES, PURESTOCK

GET IN ON THE OFFICE HOURS AND GET AHEAD

Most students don't take advantage of the time that professors set aside for office hours. I know this because I have spent many afternoons sitting by myself in my office, waiting for students to come to chat. Those who do come will timidly knock and apologize for disturbing me. This is a part of my job, to offer extra assistance to students outside of the classroom when they need it. It's more disturbing to me when students don't use my office hours.

Office hours aren't just for when you need extra help or an explanation about an assignment. They are an opportunity to get to know your professors and forge connections. You can use the time to ask them about their research and experience or to seek advice about possible majors and career paths. You never know when you're going to need that letter of reference, and you want to be able to approach professors who know you beyond a final grade at the end of the semester.

When you do show up for office hours (they're posted on the syllabus), have a clear purpose in mind; this shows initiative and organizational skills. It's OK not to understand an assignment, but come prepared to explain what doesn't make sense.

If you can arrive at the beginning of the professor's office hours, do so. If not, it is perfectly fine to come later in the posted times. If the posted office hours don't work for you because of your class or work schedule, speak to the professor before or after class to explain your situation and see if there is an alternate time when you can meet.

Always remember: We're here to help you on your journey through college, and we want to see you succeed. Office hours are one of the ways outside of the classroom that we can help — but only if you show up.

Don't be shy

Ask our professor

If you can't drop by for office hours, send your questions to professor Lee Skallerup Bessette via email: collegereadywriting@gmail.com. She'll answer your queries on etiquette, essays and anything else in her column.

Ask a professor

LEE SKALLERUP BESSETTE

READYWRITING

Dr. Lee Skallerup Bessette is an English and writing instructor who has been teaching at colleges for almost 15 years, in three different states, two countries and two languages. She has seen it all and heard it all. You can follow her on Twitter, @readywriting, and check out her blog, College Ready Writing, where she talks about the broader issues and challenges facing higher education today.

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Tech. Video interviews aim to make applications more personal

In the pile of paperwork and testing that is an application to a college or graduate program, an interview can be a chance to shine. One new site is trying to make conducting those interviews easier. Instead of flying prospective students to the school or arranging a cattle call day of interviews, Kira Talent lets students interview virtually.

The program is in use at schools across Canada, as well as the Yale School of Management.

Interviews begin with a short introduction that plays for the candidate, followed by a practice question so that prospective students can get used to the software. As each interview question comes up, students have a few seconds to formulate an answer before giving a timed response.

The idea, according to CEO and co-founder Emilie Cushman, is to add a bit of dimension to the candidate recruiters usually only see on paper.

"It's shocking that we're in 2013 and making such critical decisions based on text and how well people can write," Cushman says. "When you're recruiting people from all over the world, to base who you're going to fly out to visit your university based on an essay — that's a big investment."

Though Kira Talent is being used more widely Canada than in the U.S., Cushman says that it's picking up speed. "I wouldn't say it's the wave of the future," Cushman says, "I'd say it's the wave of right now." JULIA FURLAN

With video interviews, students add depth to their applications.
PROVIDED

Quoted

"I think it's already shocking that we're in 2013 and we're making such critical decisions based on text and how well people can write. When you're recruiting people from all over the world, to base who you're going to fly out to visit your university based on an essay — that's a big investment." Emilie Cushman, CEO and co-founder of Kira Talent

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RISKY BUSINESS STARTS WITH SAYING 'YES'

Feeling "lucky" to have the job shouldn't hold you back from taking risks. / COLOURBOX

When it comes to big, life-changing risks, I'm happy to take the plunge. Moving countries? Check. Switching careers at 30? Check. Those are the sorts of risks I see as adventures. I'm happy to slap my backpack on and navigate an unknown path to an undiscovered peak.

But when it comes to risks at the office, it's another story. I was working at a company some years ago and felt "lucky" to have the job. So, when someone suggested I take on an extra project, I demurred. In my head I reasoned, "Why rock the boat? You might mess it up. Things are fine as they are." It didn't occur to me that by taking on that project and making it my own, I might actually help my career, help people see me in a different light and provide my own springboard to an expanded role (all of which happened to a colleague who was wiser than I was).

Some of the same fears apply when it comes to negotiating for more money. Many women won't do it, or back down during negotiations, because they feel like they're endangering their relationship with their boss simply by having the conversation. Yet it's only by taking such risks that you have a chance of making a leap forward at work.

Advice

Take the leap

- Don't let "no" be your immediate answer if presented with an opportunity that scares you. Take some time to think about it.
- Look at taking a leap into the unknown as a career move — sure, it might not work out, but you won't achieve anything significant without taking a risk or two.
- Silence the voice in your head that's trying to undermine you. You can do it.

The Broad Experience

ASHLEY MILNE-TYTE

Ashley Milne-Tyte is a radio producer and reporter based in New York City. She hosts a bimonthly podcast called "The Broad Experience" about women in the workplace.

Joanna Barsh worked for many years as a consultant at McKinsey & Company.

"I turned down opportunities I thought were a stretch because I was scared," she says. "Someone would say, 'Would you like to go and open an office in such-and-such a place?' Without even thinking, I would say no. 'Would you like to join such-and-such a committee?' I said no." She gorged on thoughts of what could go wrong. But as in many workplaces, "first you say yes, then you figure it out." She eventually did exactly that, retiring recently as a partner at the firm.

Career boost

Finding a mentor can be the thing that stands between you and your next step up. / MODEL, GEMMA CHAN

Making mentorship count

Sometimes a boost from a person you respect can be just what you need to jump-start your career or turn over a new leaf. Finding a mentor might be the way to get that boost. Here are some tips to making this important bond count:

1 Ask for advice, not mentorship: Hatch your relationship by asking your potential mentor for advice instead of making an overly formal request for mentorship. With luck, the relationship will blossom from there.

2 Stay in touch: Once you've met your mentor, send a follow-up email that recalls an interesting part of your conversation to show that you were listening and engaged.

3 Ask questions, but don't bombard: A good mentor wants to help you, but don't take advantage of the person's good nature. Don't ask loads of questions all at once, and try to keep questions as succinct as possible.

4 Say 'thank you': Put your good manners to use, early and often.

5 Keep your mentor posted: If the person helped you with a certain problem or question, drop a line every so often to say how he or she helped you and what you're up to. It lets the mentor know just how valuable that advice really was. ROSIE HALES

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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You may be charming — but before you try to convince others, make sure you have your facts straight.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Interact with a variety of people. You will gain popularity if you are benevolent. Others will be interested in your plans.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Seek sound advice from someone you respect. You need an impartial opinion. Take a long, hard look at your motives. Self-deception is apparent.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Direct your energy into physical activities. You will accomplish a lot if you are determined. Your creative ability will be replenished.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Rewards will head in your direction if you offer help. You will be appreciated and recognized for your attributes.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Jealousy must not be allowed to take over. Spend quality time with the people you love. Career moves that will give you freedom can be made.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Making new acquaintances will be entertaining. Get involved in a cause, and you will open up doors to business partnerships.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Enjoy the company of someone you think is special, but don't feel the need to pay or to do too much in order to win favors.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Avoid taking unnecessary risks. Don't let someone you love goad you into taking on an expense you cannot afford. It is you who will have to suffer.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Network all you can with individuals who have the information you need to get ahead.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Concentrate on work. Personal relationships will interfere with reaching your goals. Take advantage of a chance to learn from someone.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Focus on people, places and pastimes. The information you acquire will contribute to something you can use.

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Sudoku: Easy and hard

	4	2	7	9	8			
	9					1	8	2
				1				7
	3	1			7			6
				2				
9			3			2	5	
5				8				
3	2	7					1	
			5	7	2	4	6	

9			4	3		7		6
			7				8	
7							2	
3				9	5			
1	6		8		7		3	5
			6	1				2
	8							3
	1				4			
4		5		8	6			7

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

This is not your father's GOP

Re: 'Parties don't disagree on civil rights' (Metro, Nov. 27) Democrats were the conservative party a long time before and during the early 1960s. Reagan was originally a Democrat. To believe the Republicans of today have anything to do with the Republicans of Lincoln's era is disingenuous and laughable. Also, the conservatives of Eisenhower's era were no way near as paranoid and as seemly insane as the current crop.

MICHAEL WALSH, VIA EMAIL

Letter writer Darrell Hartwick's nostalgia for the Republican party of old is sweet, but that's all it is. The Republican Party of 2013 is committed to just three things: the destruction of President Obama (as Sen. Mitch McConnell himself made clear in 2009), the elevation of the private sector at the expense of the public (the recent shutdown and ongoing budgetary drama being their primary result) and reversing the last 50 years' worth of progress on social equality (the voting restriction passed in 33 Republican-controlled states being the latest version of this). No amount of waxing nostalgic for Eisenhower or even Reagan will change this reality.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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1 Powdery ink
6 Winsome
10 Feliciano or Ferrer
14 Disconcert
15 Indigo dye
16 Goddess's statue
17 Hitting below the belt (2 wds.)
19 Adventurous
20 Wine category
21 Fast gaits
22 Join the Army
23 Baba au —
24 Mouth, slangily
25 Ignited
28 Regretted deeply
30 Venetian blinds
31 Interrupts (2 wds.)
35 Superman, incognito
36 Staff members
37 Polite address
39 How diaries are written (hyph.)
41 Pat Sajak's cohost
42 Wanton look
43 Rodeo gear
44 Soup servers
48 Trig. or geom.
49 Leave-taking
50 Judd of country
52 A fifth of DX
55 Rhyme
56 Axons and dendrites (2 wds.)
58 Thus
59 Marie's friend
60 Nimble
61 Spinks of the ring
62 Okra morsels
63 Dogie stopper

Down

1 Boys
2 Play award
3 DEA operative
4 C'— la vie!
5 Beats
6 Bounce back
7 Army outfit
8 Muscle quivers
9 Forest grazer
10 Corresponds
11 Smells
12 Crack the case
13 Tribal adviser
18 Bona fide
22 Fries, maybe
23 Tattered
24 Nail containers
25 Seek information
26 Made a fast exit
27 Turner of old movies
28 Speeder's undoing
29 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
31 Linger
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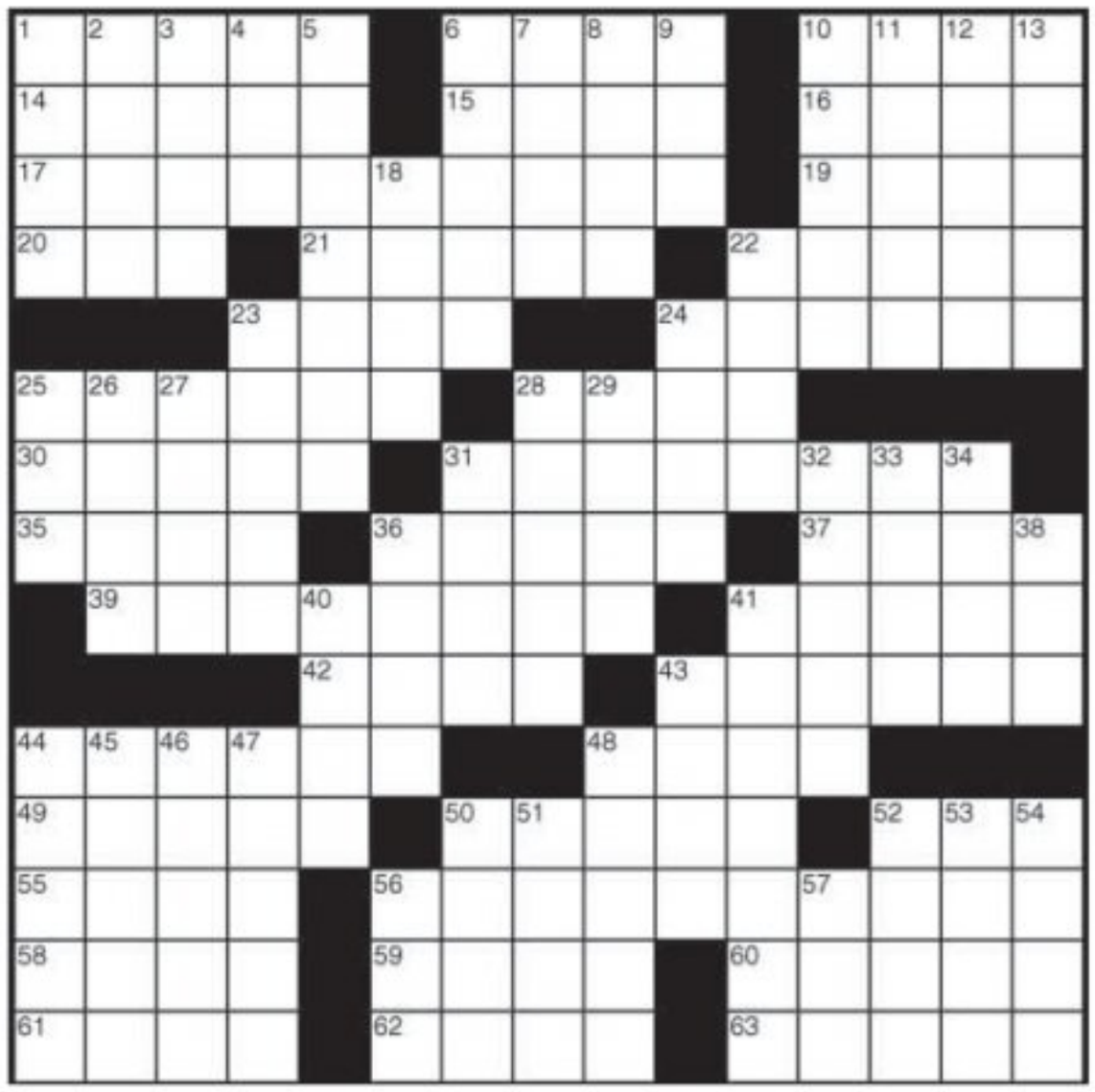
33 Fleming et al.
34 Billionth, in combos
36 Pro votes
38 Advanced degs.
40 Chicken cordon —
41 Rome locale
43 Hobbling
44 Suit coat feature
45 Love madly
46 San— Padres
47 Dud
48 Relocates
50 Verne captain
51 Very dry
52 Ad award
53 Reformers' targets
54 "Gotcha!" (2 wds.)
56 Take a snooze
57 Freud topic

Weekend's answer



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Eagles happy to see calls go in their favor for once

NFL. Philadelphia capitalizes on tight ends and a few timely penalties in a big win over the Cardinals.

The Eagles planned to exploit matchups at tight end and it worked Sunday, with Brent Celek catching a touchdown pass in the second quarter. / GETTY IMAGES

It was all part of the plan.

The Eagles had been preaching all week about getting their tight ends more involved. On their first offensive possession, Nick Foles hit Brent Celek on a 3-yard completion. Three plays later, Foles rifled one into Zach Ertz for a 6-yard touchdown to set a 24-21 victory over Arizona into motion

Head coach Chip Kelly had devised a specific plan to attack the Cardinals in the one area their top-10 defense had struggled. Arizona came into yesterday allowing 495 yards and seven touchdowns to opposing tight ends.

"I felt like we had good matchups with our tight ends on their linebackers," said Foles, who finished 21-of-34 for 237 yards and three scores. "Their linebackers are very talented, but they're bigger guys. They're really good at stopping the run and they have a big D-line that really wants to generate pressure. I liked our matchups on offense and it turned out pretty well."

Despite the win — the Eagles' fourth straight — they refused to make it easy on themselves. The Cardinals scored 14 unanswered points to make it a field-goal game when Patrick Peterson intercepted a Foles pass.

But there was a yellow flag on the ground. The referees called it back due to defensive holding on Tyrann Mathieu.

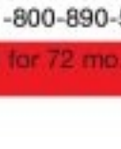
"I think it was a good play," Mathieu said. "I was just trying to be a good defensive back and was trying to get a good jam on him."

"It was an interception, but they were holding," Kelly said. "I thought it was the right call."

Sometimes it was hard to tell what was the right call as the officiating crew turned the Linc into their personal laundry room. They called it tight: 11 penalties, many on touchy holding calls. DeSean Jackson had a 54-yard touchdown return called back for holding.

Many in the Eagles' locker room smiled sheepishly and joked about calls going their way. Luck is never a bad thing in the NFL.

"Well, praise be to God. We got the win," Jason Avant said.



MICHAEL GREGER
michael.greger@metro.us

Fourth and long

Eagles search for answer in fourth quarter

Behind all the good cheer from the win lies a persistent problem that needs to be solved.

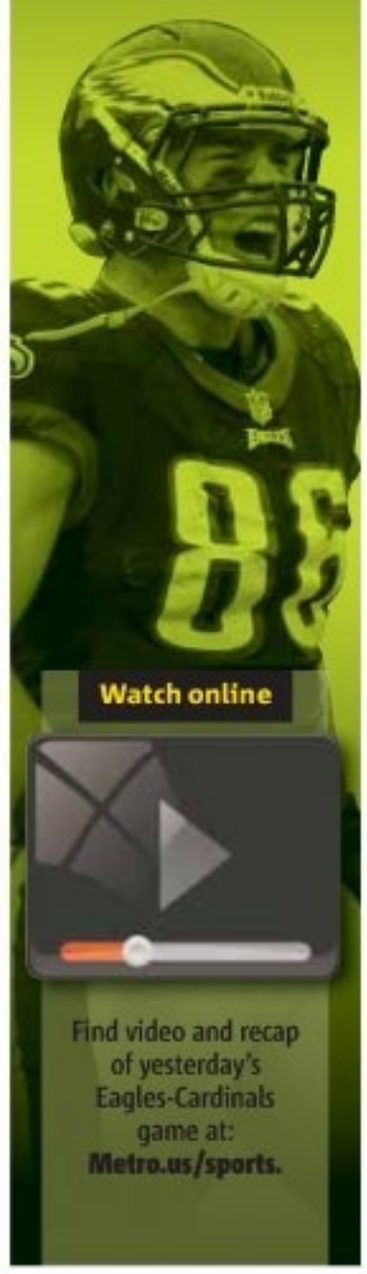
The Eagles' offense has not played a dominant second half of football since beating the Packers three weeks ago. They haven't scored in the fourth quarter since Oct. 27.

Why?

"I don't know. That's a good question," said Chip Kelly.

"We can all improve," Brent Celek said. **MIKE GREGER**

3 SPORTS



Find video and recap of yesterday's Eagles-Cardinals game at: **Metro.us/sports.**

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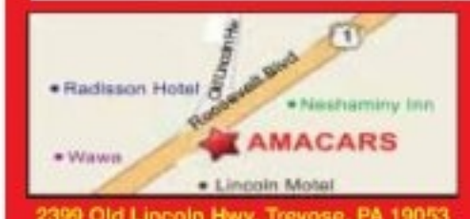

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Trent Cole was a monster on the defensive line for the Eagles. He finished with two sacks, but also a pass breakup and a tackle for loss. / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles-Cards: What we saw

NFL. Philadelphia put together as complete an effort as they've shown all season against a top opponent.

The Eagles managed to stay even with the Cowboys in the NFC East thanks to an efficient win over the Cardinals Sunday.

The Cardinals rallied for two late touchdown drives to pull within a field goal, but they could not convert a first down on their final drive deep in their own territory, and the Eagles were able to run out the final 1:47.

The win likely shapes up the division as a two-team race with Dallas having already moved to 7-5 with a win on Thanksgiving.

Metro looks at what we learned from the 24-21 victory:

1 Saint Nick

It's hard to say Sunday was Nick Foles' best day as a starter — after all, he did throw for seven touchdowns against the Raiders a few weeks ago — but it was certainly impressive. And it was against a much higher level of competition than the Raiders. Patrick Peterson and Tyrann Mathieu are a formidable pair in the Cardinals secondary, and Foles had no issue with either. Foles often avoided Peterson early, but he did manage to drop a few passes in to DeSean Jackson regardless. He finished 21-of-34 for 237 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions.

2 Tight spot

Foles made liberal use of tight ends Zach Ertz and Brent Celek with the Cardinals' elite cornerbacks manning up against his receivers. The rookie Ertz had two touchdowns — the game-opener from six yards and a 24-yard score in the third quarter. He finished with team highs of six catches and 68 yards. The veteran Celek meanwhile had four catches for 29 yards and a touchdown with just 19 seconds left in the first half. Ertz is starting to break out in a Chip Kelly offense very amenable to tight ends.

3 Rush is on

It was nice to see the Eagles generate as good a pass rush as they have all season against Carson Palmer and the Cardinals' offensive line. In the first half especially the Eagles' front seven harassed Palmer repeatedly. Trent Cole got off to a good start immediately with a strip sack on the Cardinals' first possession. The Eagles turned it into a quick touchdown and 7-0 lead just 2:25 into the game. But it wasn't Cole's last big play. He had another sack as well, while Brandon Graham — often pointed to as a bust after being taken in the first round in 2010 — doubled his season sack total with two on Sunday. It was also the second-most he's had in a game in his career (2 1/2 sacks last December against the Bengals). The Eagles had entered the game 26th in the league in sacks with just 24 total, but finished with five on Sunday.

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

Around the NFL

- **Vikings 23, Bears 20 (OT)**
The Bears (6-6) can ill afford a loss this time of year, especially against below .500 teams, and will be kicking themselves after their showing on Sunday in Minnesota. Adrian Peterson led the Vikings with 211 yards rushing and Blair Walsh banged home a 34-yard field goal in overtime to give Minnesota the victory.

- **Colts 22, Titans 14**
Rumors of the Colts' (8-4) demise this season appear to have been exaggerated as Indy held on to beat a frisky Titans (5-7) team Sunday. Donald Brown's 4-yard touchdown run with just under two minutes remaining lifted the Colts to victory. Adam Vinatieri booted five field goals in the Indy victory.

- **Dolphins 23, Jets 3**
Five weeks ago it was the Jets that appeared headed for a playoff berth and the Dolphins that looked as though their season was headed down the drain. After Miami's win in the Meadowlands Sunday, the Dolphins (6-6) are riding high and the Jets (5-7) are reeling. Ryan Tannehill paved the way for the Dolphins, passing for 331 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Geno Smith was benched by the Jets midway through, in favor of Matt Simms.

The Bears tried just about everything to stop Adrian Peterson Sunday and still came up short. / HANNAH FOSLIEN, GETTY IMAGES

See more at www.metro.us

- **Patriots 34, Texans 31**
The Patriots were coming off their most impressive win of the season and were a tad flat to start Sunday against Houston (2-10), but Stephen Gostkowski's pair of 50-plus field goals in the fourth quarter lifted New England (9-3) to its ninth win. Tom Brady passed for 371 yards and a pair of touchdowns while Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman each had a 100-yard receiving day.

- **Panthers 27, Bucs 6**
Carolina (9-3) continued to roll Sunday, winning its eighth straight game. Cam Newton was once again in full control, throwing for 263 yards and two touchdowns while also leading the team in rushing with 68 yards on the ground on five carries.

- **49ers 23, Rams 13**
Anquan Boldin was dominant Sunday, hauling in nine Colin Kaepernick passes for 98 yards. The Rams were still alive heading into the fourth quarter, down 16-6, but Kaepernick found Vernon Davis for a 17-yard touchdown pass early in the final frame to pull ahead for good.

- **Broncos 35, Chiefs 28**
Peyton Manning was far from gun-shy after the previous week's meltdown at New England as the Denver (10-2) QB threw the ball 35 times for 403 yards, five touchdowns and two interceptions.

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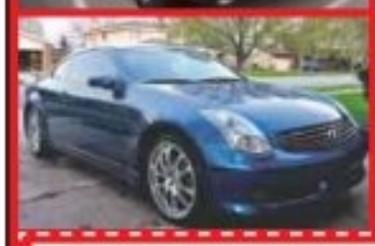

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A brutal road stretch ahead for the Flyers

NHL. Philly will look to keep pace in the division despite playing in foreign territory.

Before pulling it off on Vinny Lecavalier's 3-2 shootout goal Saturday, the last time the Flyers had won in Nashville was 2000. Monday night, Lecavalier and Philly will play in Minnesota against the Wild for the first time since 2010. Later in their current six-game trip the Flyers will travel to Dallas, before wrapping it against the reigning Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks a week from Wednesday in Chicago.

In other words, all of this is relatively new territory for Craig Berube's team, which is just beginning a stretch where it will play 13-of-17 games on foreign ice through early January. This includes a Western swing, with stops in Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary, Denver and Phoenix. None of those towns, of course, were on last season's itinerary, since the lockout-shortened 48-game season confined teams to play strictly within their own conference.

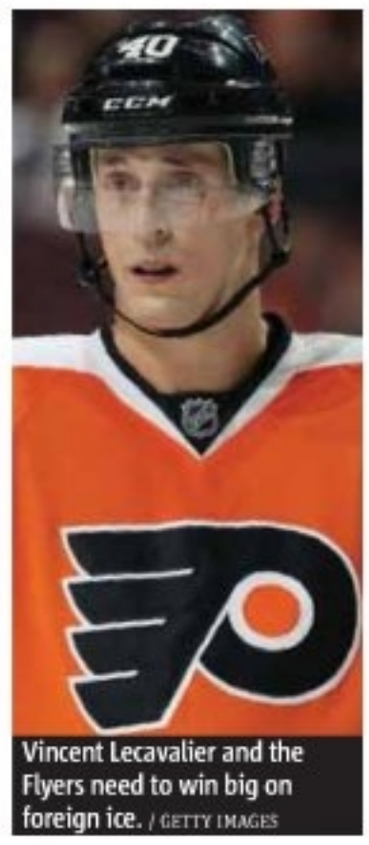
"We've played solid on the road, except for the two games in Florida," said Scott Hartnell, whose goal 48 seconds into the Flyers' 11:30 a.m. Black Friday morning special with Winnipeg triggered a 2-1 win. "This is a huge stretch for us. When you look back at the end of the season, you'll look back at this month here."

At 12-12-2 the Flyers stand fifth in the Metropolitan Division, but only four behind second-place Washington, with a game in hand. The key is maintaining such proximity until they return from their upcoming holiday trip the second week in January.

"It's tough, but I think the games are spread out enough," said Berube, now 12-9-2 since taking over from Peter Laviolette. "It's a good time to get on the road to get focused. I don't view it as grueling; I view it as an opportunity."

They can only hope that opportunity is still knocking when their days on the road finally come to an end a month from now.

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us


Vincent Lecavalier and the Flyers need to win big on foreign ice. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

13

The Flyers are beginning a stretch where they play 13-of-17 games away from Wells Fargo Center. They are in Minnesota on Monday night.

Pistons 115, 76ers 100

Sixers continue to slide, fall to Pistons on road

The 76ers had no one to match Andre Drummond down low Sunday as the Pistons' center pounded home 31 points and snagged 19 rebounds in a 115-100 Detroit victory over Philly at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

The Pistons (7-10) had 70 points by halftime as the Sixers fell to 6-12 on the season. Thaddeus Young led Philadelphia with 24 points. Michael Carter-Williams was outclassed at the point as Brandon Jennings dropped 20 points and 12 assists on the Sixers.

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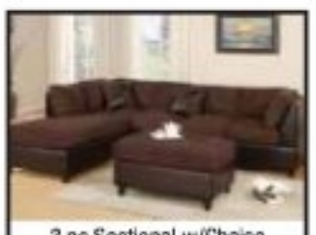

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